



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
St. Louis District®

# News Release

Release No. 04-06

Contact: Public Affairs Office  
314-331-8068 / 8095

For Release: **IMMEDIATE – February 15, 2006**

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## **Dredging Operations to Start Near Chain of Rocks Canal Extracted Sand will be used in Berm Construction**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, and Lakeshore Engineering Services, Inc., of Detroit, Michigan, have started construction of approximately 28 acres of sand seepage berms along the east side of the Chain of Rocks Canal between Chouteau Slough and the Cahokia Diversion Canal in Granite City, Illinois. The berms will help counteract underseepage issues that arise during a flood and can degrade a levee's foundation.

Construction of the north seepage berms started this month with work continuing thru May. The berms will be constructed using sand fill extracted from dredging material collected from the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. Dredging operations are expected to start next week and will be conducted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for a month.

“Residents may observe pools of water landside of the levee just north of Interstate 270 and north of Chouteau Slough on Chouteau Place Road and think there are flooding issues,” said Susan Wilson, project manager for the Army Corps of Engineers. “We want to make people aware of the work we are doing, why we are doing it and assure them there is nothing to worry about.”

Four hundred thousand cubic yards of material will be collected during the month long dredging operation, which is enough material to cover 28 acres 8 feet deep. Once the sand is extracted from the water, the water will be returned to the canal at the quality in which it was taken from the river. Lakeshore Engineering is the prime contractor and L.W. Matteson of Burlington, Iowa is the dredging sub-contractor.

“Lakeshore is pleased to have been awarded this Chain of Rocks Canal, north berms dredging project,” said Thomas E. Hardiman, Sr., Executive Vice President, Lakeshore Engineering Services, Inc. “We are proud to be working together with the St. Louis Corps of Engineers to complete this flagship project while maximizing the highest quality product that can be accomplished.”

Hardiman went on to say that the company intends to leave the area “with the least environmental impact possible” and the company expects to use as much local labor as possible.

This construction is part of the ongoing Chain of Rocks Deficiency Project to correct design deficiencies and assure that the Chain of Rocks levee will withstand a future 500-year flood event. The floods of the 1990s illustrated opportunities to improve the Chain of Rocks Levee along the canal. Sand boils and quicksand-like conditions developed along portions of the levee, indicating areas that would benefit from additional protection. The deficiency correction project is composed of constructing seepage berms and relief wells, which will serve to better control the underseepage problems. Additionally, a new pump station is planned near Chouteau Slough to better handle interior drainage.